

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/079,336

Examiner

Boris Benenson

Applicant(s)

VASHCHENKO ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/02/2004.2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-19.3. ☒ The drawings filed on 2/19/2002

are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.**Attachment(s)**1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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***Detailed Actions***

1. Amendment received on 12/02/04 is entered.

Claims 12, 13 and 14 are amended. Claims 17 and 18 are previously amended. Claims 1-11 are previously cancelled. Claims 12-19 are pending in the application.

***Response to the arguments***

2. Applicants argue that a first and a second three pin diode structures required by amended Claim 12 are not disclosed in Wagner et al. (5,430,595), instead Wagner et al. uses along-standing individual diodes (Fig.3, Pos. 21-24). The argument is convincing.

3. Applicants also argue that Wagner et al. didn't disclose a bipolar junction transistor structure comprising two base contacts, as it required by Claims 15 and 17 and the structure cannot be defined by four separate diodes of Wagner et al. Such argument is convincing.

Rejection of Claims 12,13,15,17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wagner et al. (5,430,595) is withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 12-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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5. Independent Claim 12 is allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose an ESD protection circuit for an internal circuit that includes an I/O contact comprising two three pin diode structures in combination with the other claim limitations.

6. Independent Claims 15 and 17 are allowable because none of the prior art of record disclose a circuit or a method of protecting an input to an internal circuit against ESD current pulses to an I/O contact comprising a bipolar junction transistor structure for shunting current to ground, wherein the bipolar junction transistor structure includes a first base contact connected to the I/O contact, and a second base contact connected to the input of the internal circuit, wherein the two base contacts are separated by a resistive element between the two base contacts.

7. Claims 13-14, 6, 18-19 are dependent on allowable claims and therefore allowable.

***Comments to reasons for allowance***

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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**Contact information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Benenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2048. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:20-6:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 2800 ext 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Boris Benenson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2836

B.B.

  
**BRIAN SIRCUS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**